

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

No. R. 6058-6107—L. R. 430-13-1, DATED BANGALORE, 6TH FEBRUARY 1914.

ORDER.—Nine-tenths of the population of the State reside in villages and, when the agricultural operations are slack, people in rural areas suffer from want of employment for many months in the year, particularly during years of deficient rainfall or scarcity. It is therefore considered important that a beginning should be made to stimulate economic and other activities in rural areas in order to provide subsidiary occupations and increase production and the earning power of the people.

2. After discussion with officers of Government and a large number of Representative Assembly Members and others, a form has been prepared showing the essential statistics to be collected to enable the people of a village to take stock of their progress from year to year. This form is now printed and issued for use and arrangements will be made to collect the statistics for the year 1913-14 and submit the form duly completed in July next.

3. Detailed instructions for compiling the statistics are given on the face of the form. The information needed to fill in the columns will be collected by the village agency, which will be referred to *infra*, before the end of June in each year and the form duly completed will be submitted from each village to the Taluk Progress Committee concerned or, where there is no such Committee, to the Amildar of the taluk, by the 15th of July. The figures will then be compiled by *hoblis* for each taluk by the Progress Committee or the Amildar, as the case may be, and submitted to the Deputy Commissioner before the end of July. The statistics for the whole district will be compiled in the Deputy Commissioner's Office and sent to the Revenue Commissioner by the end of August, who will prepare a consolidated return for the whole State and submit the same to Government in the Departments of Education and Agriculture by the end of September. The return will then be briefly reviewed by Government.

4. The form is intended merely to record progress from year to year. But it is essential that there should be in each village or a group of villages, an agency who will prepare a programme of the special measures of improvement necessary and hold themselves responsible for giving effect to the programme.

5. The following are some of the principal matters which require the attention of the village agency:—

(1) Improvement of education, including the education of adults and instruction in some industry or industries subsidiary to agriculture.

Spreading enlightenment by means of newspapers, lectures, demonstration, etc.

(2) Increasing production and occupations by improved methods of cultivation and irrigation and by encouraging rural industries and trade with a view to enable the people to earn more and live better.

(3) Improvement of village sanitation by keeping the village clean, and free from uneven surfaces and hollows, and by providing good water-supply and drainage.

(4) Improvement by co-operative effort in respect of—

(a) repairs to, and maintenance of, irrigation tanks and channels, cart-tracks and village school houses, temples, mosques, etc;

(b) providing facilities to travellers;

(c) establishment of co-operative societies for supplying capital, for agricultural and industrial undertakings, for disposal of produce and other objects;

(d) supply of fodder, fuel and other requirements of village life.

(5) All other objects calculated to increase production in the village and add to the comfort of the people.

(6) Collecting funds and expending the same judiciously for all these objects

6. In villages which have already been constituted into Unions and for which Panchayets have been appointed, a small committee of not less than three and not more than five members will be elected by the Panchayet to attend to the work of village improvement. In other villages containing not less than 300 inhabitants, the people of the villages should be induced to appoint a committee consisting of a sufficient number of members, preferably by election, for the same purpose. Smaller villages, that is, villages having less than 300 inhabitants, should be grouped together and a single committee appointed jointly for the group which should not exceed six villages in number. In the latter case, the meetings of the committee and the people may take place in the principal village of the group, or in each village by turns.

In places where it is difficult to form such committees, the local officers concerned should endeavour to carry out the objects of the scheme by the aid of honorary workers and collect statistics required through the village officers.

The committee will usually be appointed for one year at a time and no member should be retained on it unless he continues to render useful service.

7. Wherever there is sufficient enterprise in a village or group of villages, an endeavour should be made by the village agency to induce the villagers to give one half day in a week, for work connected with the improvement of the village, such as cleaning and improving the village site, constructing and repairing village tracks, levelling roads, filling holes and hollows, providing or improving water-supply and drainage, repairing tank embankments and irrigation channels and other similar works of general utility.

Every family in a village may be induced to contribute one adult worker and those which are not accustomed to manual work may be induced to give for the one half day in the week the services of a hired labourer, or contribute, in lieu, an anna or two at their option.

Again, on some one evening every week, all the leading villagers and communities might assemble in the village *Chavdi*, or at any other convenient place of meeting. At the meeting, a few rules on sanitation and other matters conducive to their well-being might be recited by any one of the members who is able to read, after which extracts from the week's newspapers might be read and perhaps also from religious texts like the Ramayana or the Khoran. The meeting may be followed, wherever possible, by some wholesome recreation or amusement.

People should be taught the dignity of labour. They should also be taught to esteem it a special honour to be called upon by the leaders to co-operate in carrying out works of public utility in the village.

It should be possible to get the residents of half a dozen important villages in each taluk at once to agree to such weekly co-operative work and meetings. If the scheme is worked with success in some villages, other villages are likely to follow their example and in this way a useful system of co-operative village enterprise may be gradually brought into existence.

8. Most of the works needed to improve villages can be carried out at little cost if the villagers concerned learn to co-operate and provide for their common wants.

9. A programme of all works of local improvement which may be carried out by the villagers themselves during the next five years should be maintained and the works to be taken up for each year should be selected before the beginning of the year, by the committee or other agency concerned.

10. As regards improvements which involve the employment of outside agency, such as sinking drinking water wells, execution of masonry drains and constructing buildings, school houses, etc., Government will be prepared to sanction one-half of the amount locally raised towards objects approved by them.

A sum of Rs. 2 lakhs will be provided annually in the Budget for sanctioning grants in aid of such works, chiefly in villages which are not Unions and as such have no funds at their disposal to spend. This will be exclusive of the Budget provision for the restoration of minor tanks which is being dealt with as an independent scheme.

The amount will be treated as contribution from State Funds to Local Funds. Separate orders will issue as to the amounts to be allotted to each of the eight districts and the manner in which the grant will be made available for expenditure on village works.

11. The Revenue Officers will be requested to prepare lists of villages in which committees have been formed to carry on the work of village improvement and for collection of statistics and also of those in which the villagers are willing to set apart half a day in the week for work of communal benefit and devote a few hours one evening in the week for deriving knowledge and instruction. These lists may be prepared and sent up to Government by the Deputy Commissioners through the Revenue Commissioner not later than the end of April next. The lists will be printed separately for each district.

12. The forms will be printed in the Government Press and copies supplied free of cost on application to the Deputy Commissioner.

13. Besides the District authorities in the Revenue and other Departments, the Secretary to the Economic Conference, the Secretaries to the Central Committees, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and his staff, and the officers of the Medical and Sanitary Departments, will, during their tours, get into communication with these village improvement agencies and endeavour by advice, assistance and encouragement, to stimulate their activities and maintain their interest in the work undertaken by them. *Shanbhogs* and *Patels* should be directed to give every facility for the collection of the statistics from the village accounts and in other ways.

14. Reference should be made in the Revenue Administration Report in future years describing briefly the progress made in developing the scheme in each district.

K. R. SRINIVASIENGAR,
Secy. to Govt., Gen. & Rev. Depts.

To—The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.

The Secretary to Government, Departments of Education and Agriculture.

The Secretary to the Economic Conference.

The Comptroller to Government.

The Inspector-General of Education in Mysore.

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies in Mysore.

The Deputy Commissioners of Districts.

The Heads of other Departments.

The Superintendent, Government Press.

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